

Talking Points for the DDCI  
(As of 1330 EDT, 30 August 1983)

Situation in Beirut

Fighting in Beirut has intensified during the past several hours. US Marines report that as of 1500Z, unidentified militia forces--probably Shia Amal members--and Lebanese Army units near the airport have again begun exchanging fire. Some Marine positions have come under fire--and at least one Marine unit has returned fire.

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The US Embassy reports that as of 1530Z, most of Beirut west of the Green Line and north of the Galerie Semaan crossing is controlled by Muslim and Druze militias. Armed militia roadblocks and patrols are increasing.

- All of the crossings from West to East Beirut are reported closed or dangerous.
- Members of the French and British MNF units have come under fire today, and at least one French soldier has been killed.
- At 1535Z, two large explosions occurred near the US Office of Military Cooperation in Beirut.

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On the political front, the Lebanese Cabinet is continuing to meet and the Lebanese Government, according to press reports, is attempting telephonic communications with Muslim leaders to bring an end to the fighting.

- Army Commander Tannous reportedly has told the Cabinet that he plans to redeploy his forces from the southern Shia suburbs to their bases, apparently in an attempt to reestablish Army presence in West Beirut.

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According to the Beirut press, Amal leader Nabih Barri has been meeting with Muslim leaders throughout the day. The Beirut radio reports that Barri will have a press conference at 1800 local time (noon Washington time) to announce that he favors restoration of government authority.

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Special Envoy McFarlane is attempting to arrange a meeting tomorrow in Cyprus with the "Paris group"--Junblatt, Gemayel's representative Haddad, and some Israeli officials. The Lebanese Government has told McFarlane that it is prepared to resume talks with Junblatt immediately.

-- Junblatt told our Ambassador in Syria yesterday, however, that given the situation in Beirut, his talks with McFarlane over the weekend are now a dead issue.

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SUBJECT: Talking Points on Lebanon for the DDCI  
Current Situation: Situation in Beirut

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